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December 16, 1954

Paul B. Pearson, Chief
Biology Branch

VISIT WITH MR. BUCKER, DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER
TRUST TERRITORIES, GUAM, DECEMBER 8, 1954

CONFIRMED TO BE UNCLASSIFIED
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BY [illegible] DATE: 12/19/84

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I discussed with Mr. Bucker and Dr. Smith means whereby the Division of Biology and Medicine could aid them in implementing their program leading to improved production of crops used for food and of economic importance in the Marshall Islands. Mr. Bucker said that one of their two major efforts would be to strengthen the agricultural program of the Trust Territories and that they planned to add several staff members in this area provided the funds can be obtained. He said that they feel it will be more effective to operate their own program rather than to do it under contract such as with the Pacific Science Board or the University of Hawaii.

I suggested that we might be able to provide funds for them to employ two men on the Ph.D. level, probably one in plant breeding and the other with a good background in soils and plant ecology. Such men could be expected to provide some leadership for the agricultural program of the Trust Territories in the Marshall Islands.

The proposal submitted by the University of Hawaii under Max Doty has not been considered favorably by Dr. Stakman or by Dr. Baver. I visited with Drs. Doty and Cecil enroute back from the Orient. Further discussions with them on this proposal did not alter my original opinion that this is not a project the Biology Branch wishes to support.

By providing funds to the Trust Territories and supplementing a program that they have a high priority for would, I believe, be the most effective means of increasing the general economic level of the natives of the Marshall Islands. This would also seem to have the advantage that the Trust Territories may within a few years assume complete responsibility for the program. It would probably be necessary for us to provide some guidance and assistance to the Trust Territories people in selecting personnel we provide money for. Their greatest need is for funds for scientific personnel. Mr. Bucker feels that they could provide the supplemental support that a couple of scientists would need.

I assured Mr. Bucker that we would give this matter further consideration and write him at an early date.

cc: Dr. Bugher

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